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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/578,406

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EXAMINER

WOOD, JONATHAN K

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/578,406	Applicant(s) PARDONGE ET AL.	
	Examiner JONATHAN WOOD	Art Unit 3754	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 March 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 March 2007 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>5/5/2006</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: 30. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

2. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the pump consisting of only four parts and the valve element being integral with the part forming the pump body and shutter must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate

Art Unit: 3754

prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either “Replacement Sheet” or “New Sheet” pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

3. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it includes the legal phraseology “said”. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

The following guidelines illustrate the preferred layout for the specification of a utility application. These guidelines are suggested for the applicant’s use.

Arrangement of the Specification

As provided in 37 CFR 1.77(b), the specification of a utility application should include the following sections in order. Each of the lettered items should appear in upper case, without underlining or bold type, as a section heading. If no text follows the section heading, the phrase “Not Applicable” should follow the section heading:

- (a) TITLE OF THE INVENTION.
- (b) CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS.
- (c) STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT.

Art Unit: 3754

(d) THE NAMES OF THE PARTIES TO A JOINT RESEARCH AGREEMENT.

(e) INCORPORATION-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A COMPACT DISC.

(f) BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.

(1) Field of the Invention.

(2) Description of Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.

(g) BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.

(h) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S).

(i) DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.

(j) CLAIM OR CLAIMS (commencing on a separate sheet).

(k) ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE (commencing on a separate sheet).

(l) SEQUENCE LISTING (See MPEP § 2424 and 37 CFR 1.821-1.825. A "Sequence Listing" is required on paper if the application discloses a nucleotide or amino acid sequence as defined in 37 CFR 1.821(a) and if the required "Sequence Listing" is not submitted as an electronic document on compact disc).

4. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: no section heading are included. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

5. Claim 11 is objected to because of the following informalities: line 2 recites 'form' and should recite 'forms'. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

6. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

7. Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claims 1 and 13, the phrase "such as" renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitations following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

Claim 9 recites the limitation "said retaining ring" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It is suggested to amend to "a retaining ring" or define a retaining ring earlier in the claim.

Claim 10 recites the limitations "the dispensing head", "the retaining ring", and "the plunger tube" in lines 2-4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claim. It is suggested to amend to "a dispensing head", "a retaining ring", and "a plunger tube" or define these elements earlier in the claim.

Claim 11 recites the limitation "the seat" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It is suggested to amend to "a seat" or define a seat earlier in the claim.

Claim 13 recites that a valve element is a separate part of the pump after reciting in claim 10 that there are only four parts to the pump. These limitations are conflicting and therefore make the claim indefinite. Due to the confusion of this limitation and the drawing objections mentioned above, for purposes of examination, examiner is not considering the ball valve as "a part" of the pump, similar to applicant's interpretation.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

Art Unit: 3754

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

9. Claims 1, 3, 7-9, and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,209,760 B1 to *Fuchs* (*Fuchs*).

Fuchs shows a pump comprising a pump body (30), a pump chamber (21), a piston (17) sliding in the pump chamber, a dispensing orifice (20), and a shutter (45) embodied in one piece with the pump body (Figure 1) forming an outlet valve at the dispensing orifice (col. 4, ll. 34-35), the shutter being moveable between an open and closed position of the dispensing orifice, wherein the pump has only one elastic element (31, 33, and 35, col. 3, line 41) to bring the piston back to its rest position and to drive the shutter to its closed position (col. 6, ll. 48-50).

Regarding claim 3, *Fuchs* shows the pump comprising a retaining ring (11).

Regarding claim 7, *Fuchs* shows the pump comprising a dispensing head (50) including the dispensing orifice.

Regarding claim 8, *Fuchs* shows the pump body placed inside the dispensing head (Figure 1).

Regarding claim 9, *Fuchs* shows the dispensing head connected onto the retaining ring and stops (61 and 77) defining the rest position of the pump.

Regarding claims 15 and 16, *Fuchs* shows the pump of claim 1 snap-fitted (col. 6, ll. 9-10) to a tank (29) and a gasket (75) interposed in between.

10. Claims 1-3, 5-9, and 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 4,640,443 to *Corsette* (*Corsette*).

Corsette shows a pump comprising a pump body (portion of 36 that is not 31), a pump chamber (27), a piston (24) sliding in the pump chamber, a dispensing orifice (42), and a shutter (49) embodied in one piece with the pump body (Figure 1) forming an outlet valve at the dispensing orifice, the shutter being moveable between an open and closed position of the dispensing orifice (col. 5, ll. 3-26), wherein the pump has only one elastic element (28) to bring the piston back to its rest position and to drive the shutter to its closed position (col. 3, ll. 49-53).

Regarding claim 2, *Corsette* shows the spring is away from all contact with the fluid product (Figure 1).

Regarding claim 3, *Corsette* shows the pump comprising a retaining ring (12).

Regarding claim 5, *Corsette* shows the retaining ring embodied in one piece with an inlet valve seat (22) of the pump chamber (Figure 1).

Regarding claim 6, *Corsette* shows the piston embodied in one piece with the retaining ring (Figure 1).

Regarding claim 7, *Corsette* shows the pump comprising a dispensing head (31) including the dispensing orifice.

Regarding claim 8, *Corsette* shows the pump body placed inside the dispensing head (Figure 1).

Regarding claim 9, *Corsette* shows the dispensing head connected onto the retaining ring and stops (38 and 41) defining the rest position of the pump.

Regarding claim 15, *Corsette* shows the pump of claim 1 anchored to a tank (container, col. 3, line 8).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

11. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

12. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

13. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

14. Claims 4, 10-11 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Corsette* in view of US Patent No. 7,014,069 B2 to *Crosnier et al.* (*Crosnier*).

Corsette shows all aspects of applicant's invention as set forth in claims 1 and 3, but does not disclose the plunger tube 19 embodied in one piece with the retaining ring. However, *Crosnier* shows a pump with a retaining ring (1) and plunger tube (3) embodied in one piece. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, under the teachings of *Crosnier*, to have made the retaining ring 11 and plunger tube 19 of *Corsette* integral with one another in order to simplify the assembly process of the pump. The resulting combination would result in the pump of *Corsette* as modified by *Crosnier* having only four parts, including the part forming the dispensing head (31), the part forming the pump body and shutter (part of 36 that is not 31), the part forming the spring (38), and the part forming the piston, retaining ring, and plunger tube (11 with newly integrated plunger tube 19).

Regarding claims 11 and 13, *Corsette* as modified by *Crosnier* shows the retaining ring embodied in one piece with an inlet valve seat (22) of the pump chamber (Figure 1), which interacts with a valve element (21).

15. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Corsette* in view of *Crosnier* as applied to claim 11 above, and further in view of US Patent No. 7,182,226 B2 to *Mbonyumuhire* (*Mbony*).

Corsette as modified by *Crosnier* shows all aspects of applicant's invention as set forth in claim 11, but does not disclose the inlet valve element being integral with the part forming the pump body and shutter. However, *Mbony* shows a pump which utilizes an inlet valve element (12) which is integral with the moving portion of the pump. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

Art Unit: 3754

invention, under the teachings of *Mbony*, to have replaced the ball valve 21 of *Corsette* as modified by *Crosnier* with a valve element like that of *Mbony* integral to the moving portion of the pump (in this case it would be the pump body) in order to reduce the number of working parts in the device.

Conclusion

16. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- US Patent No. 4,503,997 to *Corsette* discloses a pump like that of applicant's claim 1.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JONATHAN WOOD whose telephone number is (571)270-7422. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 7:30 AM to 5 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kevin Shaver can be reached on (571)272-4720. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3754

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/JKW/

Examiner, Art Unit 3754

/Kevin P. Shaver/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3754